

REVIEWS

Partridge's ego takes flight on the night

David Cassidy,

Apollo

SO, for one last time David Cassidy, former Partridge Family member and '70s teen idol, takes to the stage in Manchester.

Only a cynic would say he's suggested this mini-UK tour will be his last to fill seats but, singing all his hits for the first time in years, Cassidy is obviously keen to go out in style.

At 58, he still looks fantastically well, playing the part of heart-throb like a pro.

With perma-tan and constant grin, to say he is a hit with the women in the audience is an understatement; his ability to stir up female excitement undiminished, he spends the majority of the show shaking hands with the hordes at the front, fending off the wolf whistles and the memorabilia thrown onstage, milking the adoration for all its worth.

The trouble, to put it bluntly, is Cassidy's ego.

It is one thing talking to your audience, it is another thing entirely to have your musings engulf the show to the detriment of the songs.

Seldom can a performer have spoken so much yet said so little of interest.

Bar a story about his first gig in Manchester, Cassidy's banter



» **LOTS OF TALK** David Cassidy at the Manchester Apollo. Although still a good performer, his banal banter ruined what could have been a very good show for the fans

is banal and self-absorbed.

That he talks as much as he sings, even during the songs themselves, makes the evening difficult to endure.

Daydreamer, which should be an open goal in the circumstances, is the most notable victim.

With the Apollo singing and swaying in unison, Cassidy

stops the song no less than three times to ramble, displaying surprising disregard for his audience.

This is exasperating, as when he gives the crowd what they want, Cassidy proves he is still a performer of worth.

Voice still intact, '70s mega-hits *Could it be Forever* and *How Can I Be Sure*, sang

untainted, show what he's all about. He just can't help himself, though; he takes great glee in telling us, mid-song, that *I Think I Love You* went to number one in 48 countries.

After two hours, he strides off triumphantly, no doubt on a crest of his own self-satisfaction.

Shaun Curran